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QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS SUBJECTED TO ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT

Report by the Secretary-General on Human rights and forensic science

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Introduction

1. At its forty-eighth session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 1992/24 in response to the perceived need to create, under United Nations auspices, a standing team of forensic experts and experts in other related disciplines to assist in the identification of probable victims of human rights violations or in the training of local teams for the same purpose. In compliance with resolution 1992/24, the Secretary-General submitted a report (E/CN.4/1993/20) to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session in which he noted the increasing references by experts of the Commission on Human Rights to the need for forensic expertise in the determination of alleged violations brought to their attention and the prevailing difficulties in obtaining such assistance.

2. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 1993/33 in which the Commission, welcoming the report of the Secretary-General, requested him "to consult with Governments, relevant United Nations bodies, professional organizations of forensic experts, the organizations mentioned in his report and other interested institutions with a view to identifying individual experts who might be asked to join forensic teams or to provide advice or assistance to thematic or country mechanisms, advisory services and technical assistance programmes". The Commission also requested the Secretary-General to establish "a list of forensic experts and experts in related fields who could be requested to help international mechanisms in the field of human rights, Governments and the Centre for Human Rights in providing technical and advisory services, advice in regard to the monitoring of human rights violations and training of local teams and/or assistance in the reunification of families of the disappeared". The Secretary-General was further requested to make the aforementioned list available to the special rapporteurs and experts of United Nations human rights mechanisms so that they might draw upon the list in carrying out their mandates. Finally, the Secretary-General was requested to report to the Commission at its fiftieth session on progress made in this area and to make such recommendations as he considered appropriate.

3. In compliance with resolution 1993/33, the Secretary-General submitted a report (E/CN.4/1994/24) to the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session in which he presented a list of forensic experts and institutions recommended by Governments and non-governmental organizations. He also underlined the need to articulate a standard arrangement such as a cooperative service agreement regulating the status of experts, their methods of work, and other relevant matters including issues of finance and confidentiality. To this end, he noted that the agreement between the United Nations and Physicians for Human Rights (E/CN.4/1993/20, annex) might serve as a useful basis for future arrangements in the field. Further, he emphasized the need to elaborate a comprehensive set of principles and guidelines to be observed in investigations conducted under United Nations auspices. He concluded the report by noting that in order to respond to the need for appropriate financing of consultations and eventual specific investigations conducted under United Nations auspices, as well as the voiced desire to obtain training of forensic experts for investigations conducted under the auspices of governmental bodies, the establishment of a voluntary fund might be considered.

4. At its fiftieth session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 1994/31 in which the Commission, welcoming the report of the Secretary-General, requested him again to consult with Governments, relevant United Nations bodies, professional organizations of forensic experts, the organizations mentioned in his reports of 1993 and 1994, and other interested institutions with a view to:

(a) Identifying individual experts who might be asked to join forensic teams or to provide advice or assistance to thematic or country mechanisms, advisory services and technical assistance programmes;

(b) Submitting biographical data on the experts, including professional qualifications, current employment, contact address, gender (the nomination of female experts is encouraged) and the kinds of assistance they could provide; and

(c) Seeking their advice as to the elaboration of principles, guidance, procedures, mechanisms and training, in addition to the Manual on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal Arbitrary and Summary Executions. The Commission also requested the Secretary-General to continue efforts to establish, on the basis of these consultations and on the basis of continuing efforts on the part of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, to render active assistance, a list of forensic experts and experts in related fields who could be requested to help international mechanisms in the field of human rights, Governments and the Centre for Human Rights in providing technical and advisory services, advice in regard to the monitoring of human rights violations and training of local teams and/or assistance in the reunification of families of the disappeared. It further requested him annually to update and to make this list available to the special rapporteurs and experts of the United Nations human rights mechanisms so that they might request these forensic experts to assist them in evaluating documents and other evidence and to accompany them on country visits. Finally, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on progress made in this matter, including: (a) the latest list of experts; and (b) a standard arrangement or cooperation service agreement regulating the use of forensic experts, as well as to make such recommendations as he might consider appropriate.

I. CONSULTATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

A. Comments received from Governments

5. In addition to the responses of interested Governments in recommending experts to be included in the list of forensic experts and experts in related fields established by the Secretary-General, the Governments of Germany, Mexico and Spain contributed the following remarks on the measures they have taken to introduce into their rules and practices the international standards set forth in the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions, as well as the model autopsy protocol set forth in the Manual on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions.

6. The Federal Republic of Germany submitted a statement that reads: "The legal and constitutional order in Germany ensures that extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions do not take place. Beyond the existing legal provisions in Germany, no further measures are necessary to implement international standards in order to prevent and investigate this kind of execution."

7. The Government of Spain indicated that the General Direction for Codification of the Ministry of Justice and of the Interior is the authority in charge of implementing international treaties that deal with humanitarian issues. This institution seeks to implement the international recommendations made by the United Nations. In this regard, the Government indicated that with a view to guiding the practice of forensic doctors in Spain to ensure that this practice is in accordance with the internationally recognized procedures, it has adopted a protocol for the examination of detainees that will be used by forensic doctors. This document is inspired by the Manual cited above. In adopting the protocol, the Government has also taken into account the observations of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and observations made by several Spanish experts.

8. The Government of Mexico submitted an eight-page document in which it set out the measures adopted to introduce in its rules and practices the norms contained in the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions and gave its opinion on the model autopsy protocol contained in the Manual. With regard to the first matter, the Government listed various provisions of the Constitution that protect the rights of the individual, including the right to life, and the rights of persons deprived of their liberty.

9. Article 102 of the Constitution provides for the establishment, on the federal and State levels, of bodies to protect those rights and which would received complaints of violations committed by any authority or public servant, except for the federal judiciary.

10. Under article 104 of the Constitution, the federal courts have jurisdiction over disputes which might arise concerning the implementation of federal laws or international treaties to which Mexico is a party.

11. Under articles 280 I-III of the Penal Code concerning burials and exhumations, anyone who hides, destroys or buries a body without the proper authority; hides, destroys or buries the body of a person whose death was caused by blows, wounds or injuries; or exhumes a body without the proper authority is in violation of the law.

12. Pursuant to article 289 of the Criminal Procedure Code for the Federal District, in no case may an official use incommunicado detention, intimidation or torture to obtain a confession or for any other reason.

13. Pursuant to article 2 of the federal law to prevent and punish torture, the competent bodies of the executive will carry out programmes and establish procedures for the training of the police and of the population at large in human rights. Article 3 states that a public servant who, in carrying out his

duties, inflicts physical or psychological pain on a person with a view to obtaining a confession, or as a means of punishment, is guilty of committing torture.

14. Article 13 of the law that establishes minimum standards for the social reintegration of prisoners prohibits any form of punishment consisting of torture or other form of cruel treatment, including the unnecessary use of violence.

15. The National Human Rights Commission has competence to receive complaints of violations of human rights from anyone. When the persons concerned have been deprived of their liberty or their whereabouts are unknown, their relatives or neighbours, including minors, may present complaints on their behalf.

16. The Government also indicated that it had disseminated information throughout the nation concerning the measures adopted to implement the Principles.

17. With respect to paragraph 6 of the Principles, which stipulates that "Governments shall ensure that persons deprived of their liberty are held in officially recognized places of custody", Mexico has been recognized as one of the leading countries, as its legislation demonstrates. The Constitution - which dates from 1917 - provides for the organization under the federal and State Governments of a public penal system, implicitly prohibiting private or clandestine prisons. Articles 1-3 of the law establishing minimum standards for the social reintegration of prisoners stipulate exactly how the prison system will be organized.

18. When a person is detained, it is the responsibility of the person in charge of the prison to bring the individual before a judge within 72 hours and to inform his family or other person. If the inmate is to be moved to another institution, the family must also be informed of the new place of incarceration and the reason for the change.

19. These provisions are contained in the laws and regulations governing the prisons of each State.

20. Paragraph 7 of the Principles, which states that "inspectors ... shall conduct inspections in places of custody on a regular basis", is fully respected by Mexico. Article 3 of the law establishing minimum standards provides for the General Direction for Prevention and Social Reintegration to organize and monitor the functioning of the penal institutions in the country. To this end inspections are carried out by its qualified personnel in order to detect and prevent anomalies or failure to respect the human rights of the detainees. Inspections by independent authorities, including representatives of the National Human Rights Commission, are also provided for by the laws and regulations of States and of the Commission. Finally, the Organic Law of the Judicial Branch permits magistrates and judges to visit places of detention to monitor the treatment of detainees.

21. Giving its opinion of the model autopsy protocol, the Government of Mexico expressed general agreement with the protocol's provisions. However,

owing to a lack of human and material resources, it was not always possible to follow them. This does not detract from their importance. The model protocol should be adopted in every country and institution, to the extent that resources permit. The Government noted that most the procedures described have been long-standing practices in Mexico.

22. The Government provided extensive details on how autopsies are ordered and carried out in Mexico.

B. Comments received from non-governmental organizations

23. Dr. Joren Thomsen, the head of the University Institute of Forensic Medicine at Odense University in Denmark, expressed the opinion "that there is a great need for teaching in forensic medicine in many places of the world, where this field of medicine is non-existent or only developed to a low level. This would be in agreement with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, article 10."

C. Fact-finding situations as reported by mechanisms of the Commission and other relevant United Nations bodies in connection with medico-legal investigations relating to alleged human rights violations

24. In his report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions referred to the need for forensic expertise in the context of his investigations into executions in Guatemala (E/CN.4/1995/61, para. 144) and in Sri Lanka (para. 290). He also reiterated his call for the establishment of a United Nations standing team of experts:

> "The Special Rapporteur has repeatedly referred to the need for the assistance of specialists in various forensic disciplines during investigations into extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the importance of support for efforts to establish a standing team of independent experts that could participate in such examinations to ensure that they are carried out according to the highest professional standards. During 1994, the Special Rapporteur has reiterated the need for forensic experts, indispensable for thorough investigations of human remains, in communications to the Governments of Gabon, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Sri Lanka and Venezuela. The Special Rapporteur could also envisage availing himself of the assistance of a forensic expert during on-site visits where preliminary investigations might be required" (para. 430).

25. In his report to the fifty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Manfred Nowak, expert of the Commission on Human Rights in charge of the special process on missing persons in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, noted that the Commission of Experts deployed forensic teams to carry out preliminary investigations near Poljana Pakracka (UNPA-West) in order to confirm the existence of a mass grave, said to contain the remains of

up to 1,700 persons. As a result of these investigations 19 bodies were exhumed from 9 separate graves. Forensic examination of the corpses confirmed that the persons had indeed been executed (E/CN.4/1995/37, para. 34).

26. In its report to the Security Council, the Commission of Experts for Rwanda noted that on 23 August 1994, prior to the Commission's departure for Rwanda, the Chairman held a meeting at Geneva with 21 government representatives to outline its immediate plan of activities. He requested assistance, including in matters related to prosecution, police investigations and forensic expertise so that proper hearings of victims and witnesses could be conducted and that mass graves could be exhumed (S/1994/1125, para. 13).

27. In his report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the Human Rights Field Operations in Rwanda, the High Commissioner for Human Rights noted that teams of experts provided by the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America undertook special investigations into acts of genocide, including a comprehensive survey by forensic experts of massacre and mass grave sites, interviews of surviving victims and witnesses and the collection and preservation of documentary and other tangible evidence (A/50/743, annex, para. 13).

D. Establishment of the Guidelines for the conduct of United Nations inquiries into allegations of massacres

28. At the request of the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General appointed a three-member panel of inquiry on 4 August 1993 with a mandate to establish the facts and circumstances relating to a massacre of civilians which had occurred on 6 June 1993 near Harbel, Liberia, to examine allegations regarding responsibility for the massacre and to make appropriate recommendations. In its report to the Secretary-General, the panel recommended, inter alia, that the United Nations should develop practical guidelines and procedures for rapid, methodical collection and preservation of evidence and interviews of eyewitnesses, for use wherever such tragedies may occur.

29. In response to these recommendations, the Secretary-General asked the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, in cooperation with other relevant departments of the United Nations, to undertake the preparation of guidelines and procedures for the conduct of inquiries by the United Nations into allegations of massacres. In carrying out this task, the United Nations Legal Counsel involved the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions of the Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch in Vienna, and the Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780 (1992).

30. The Guidelines prepared by the Legal Counsel are contained in a booklet entitled Guidelines for the conduct of United Nations inquiries into allegations of massacres (DPI/1710). The Guidelines intend to provide a frame of reference and guidance for investigations for which there are no or few procedures already in place. They are intended for future investigations by the United Nations, but may prove useful for similar inquiries conducted outside the Organization. In addition to the Guidelines, this booklet

includes five related documents which are annexed to the Guidelines and which are an integral part of them: the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions, recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1989/65 of 24 May 1989 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/162 of 15 December 1989 (annex I); the incident report information form ("IRI") (annex II); the Model protocol for a legal investigation of extra-legal, arbitrary and summary executions ("Minnesota Protocol") (annex III); the Model autopsy protocol (annex IV) and the Model protocol for disinterment and analysis of skeletal remains (annex V).

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIST OF FORENSIC EXPERTS AND EXPERTS IN RELATED FIELDS

31. In response to the requests made by the Secretary-General, the names of experts or specialized organizations were put forth by Governments and non-governmental organizations. The names of the recommended experts and institutions are contained in annex I.

III. COOPERATION SERVICE AGREEMENT

32. In resolution 1994/31, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on a standard cooperation service agreement regulating the use of forensic experts. To this end, a cooperation service agreement and a special service agreement have been prepared; the standard cooperation service agreement, which shall be used in the event that a Member State or non-governmental organization provides the services of a forensic scientist, is contained in annex II; the standard special service agreement, which shall be used in the event that the services of a forensic expert are engaged directly by the United Nations, is contained in annex III.

IV. CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING FUTURE ACTIVITIES

33. The developments since the last report demonstrate that the use of forensic experts remains high on the agenda of investigative procedures. The International Criminal Tribunals, the Commissions of Experts appointed by the Security Council and the special rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights have all expressed the view that forensic science is a necessary component of the investigations in situations such as those encountered in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Burundi.

34. In this regard, the list of forensic experts and the cooperation service agreement will be helpful for the United Nations human rights bodies that require the assistance of such experts. However, these activities require the appropriate resources. As mentioned above, in his report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session, the Secretary-General noted that the Commission might wish to consider the establishment of a voluntary fund to respond to the need for appropriate financing of consultations and eventual specific investigations conducted under United Nations auspices. No Government has pronounced itself on the establishment of such a fund. Accordingly, the Commission may wish to consider whether the establishment of a voluntary fund should be further pursued.

Annex I

RECOMMENDED EXPERTS AND INSTITUTIONS

A. Experts and institutions recommended by Governments

Austria

Eduard P. Leinzinger, Richard Scheithauer, Hans Unterdorfer, Walter Rabl, Georg Bauer, Wolfgang Denk, Christian Reiter, Carl Stellwag-Carion, Walter Vycudilik

France

Dominique Bonnet, Philippe Werson

Germany

Hans-Joachim Wagner, Richard Helmer, Manfred Kleiber, Rudolf Wegnener, Eberhard Lignitz, Wolfgang Eisenmenger, Wolfgang Keil, Edith Tutsch-Bauer, Randolph Penning, Thomas Gilg, Erich Müller, Reinhard Vock, Günter Weiler, Hansjürgen Bratzke, Ulrich Lutz, Peter Nels, Joachim Gerchow, Jochen Wilske, Dieter Buhmann, Hans Dieter Troeger, Klaus-Steffen Saternus

Malta

A. Abela Medici

Philippines

Nicanor M. Cruz Jr., Maximo L. Reyes, Bienvenido Munoz, Roberto V. Garcia, Idabel Pagulayan, Elvira del Rosario

Spain

Rafael Munoz-Garrrido, José M. Abenza Rojo, Emilio Pérez Pujol, Guillermo Portero Lezcano, Rafael Alcaraz Manzano, Joaquiń Mansilla Legorduro, José Luis Prieto Carrero, Esperanza Nunez Pena

Uruguay

Guido Berro Rovira, Beatriz Balbela Ballebella

B. Experts and institutions recommended by non-governmental organizations

1. University Institute for Forensic Medicine (Odense, Denmark)

Jorgen L. Thomsen, Peter Knudsen

2. Equipo Argentino de Antropologia Forense
(Buenos Aires, Argentina)

Mercedes Doretti, Patricia Bernardi, Anahi Ginarte, Luis Fondebrider, Alejandro Inchaurregui, Anahi Girard, Silvana Turner, Maco Somigliana

3. Guatemala Forensic Team

Mariana Valdizon

4. Physicians for Social Responsibility
(Boston, United States of America)

Robert Kirschner

5. Other experts

Isabel Rebeco (Chile), Rebecca Saunders (United States of America), Clyde Snow (United States of America), Ian West (United Kingdom), Bernard Knight (United Kingdom), Morris Tidball (Amnesty International), Derrick J. Pounder (United Kingdom), Lindsey Thomas (United States of America), Garry Peterson (United States of America)

Annex II

COOPERATION SERVICE AGREEMENT

[Preambular paragraphs as required by the particular situation]

Article I

Obligation of the Member State or non-governmental organization

1. The ------ (Member State or NGO) agrees to make available for the duration and purpose of this agreement the services of ------ (name(s)) forensic expert(s) listed in annex I hereto. Changes and modifications to the annex may be made with the agreement of the parties.

2. The ------ (Member State or NGO) undertakes to pay all expenses in connection with the services of the forensic expert(s), including salary, travel costs to and from ------ (site of investigation), subsistence allowances and other benefits to which he or she is entitled. The ------ shall ensure that a certificate of good health is issued by a certified doctor, stating that the expert is fit to travel and has had the required inoculations for the country or countries to which he/she travels.

3. The ------ (Member State or NGO) undertakes to ensure that during the entire period of service under this Agreement, adequate medical and life insurance as well as insurance coverage for service-incurred illness, injury, disability or death is provided to the expert.

Article II

Obligations of the United Nations

1. The United Nations shall provide the forensic expert(s) with a special contract without remuneration and a United Nations identity card, as well as with office space, equipment and other resources necessary to carry out the tasks assigned to him or her.

2. The United Nations does not accept any liability for claims for compensation in respect of illness, injury or death arising out of or related to the provision of services under this Agreement, except where they result from the gross negligence of the officials or staff of the United Nations.

Article III

Obligations of the forensic expert(s)

1. The ------ (Member State or NGO) agrees to the terms and obligations specified below, and shall ensure that the forensic expert(s) performing services under this Agreement comply with these obligations.

(a) The Expert shall perform his or her functions under the authority and in full compliance with the instructions of the ------ (special rapporteur/independent expert/working group of the Commission on Human Rights or the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as applicable).

(b) The expert shall perform the following functions:

(functions as the particular situation warrants)

(c) The expert shall undertake to respect the impartiality and independence of the ------ (special rapporteur/independent expert/working group/High Commissioner for Human Rights) and shall neither seek nor accept instructions regarding the services performed under this Agreement from any Government, authority or any other entity external to the United Nations.

(d) The expert shall refrain from any conduct which would adversely reflect on the ------ (special rapporteur/independent expert/working group/ High Commissioner for Human Rights) or which is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the United Nations.

(e) The expert shall comply with all rules, regulations, instructions, procedures or directives issued by the United Nations.

(f) The expert shall treat as confidential all documents, information or data received, compiled or processed by him or her. He shall exercise the utmost discretion in all matters relating to his or her functions and shall not communicate, at any time, without the authorization of the Secretary-General to the media or to any institution, person, Government or authority external to the United Nations, any information that has not been made public, and which has become known to him or her by reason of his or her association with the United Nations. He or she shall not use any such information without the written authorization of the Secretary-General and, in any event, such information shall not be used as personal gain. These obligations do not lapse upon expiration of this Agreement.

Article IV

Legal status of the forensic expert(s)

1. The forensic expert(s) shall not be considered in any respect as being an official or staff member of the United Nations.

2. The forensic expert(s) shall be considered an "expert on mission" within the meaning of article VI, sections 22 and 23, of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946, and shall be entitled to the privileges, immunities and facilities provided for thereunder, wherever he or she performs missions.

Article IV

Use of the United Nations name and emblem

1. The forensic expert(s) shall, in no manner whatsoever, use the name, emblem or official seal of the United Nations, or any abbreviation thereof, in connection with his or her business or otherwise. The forensic expert(s) shall not advertise or otherwise make public the fact of his/her contractual relationship with the United Nations.

Article V

Entry into force, duration and termination

1. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by written agreement between the parties.

2. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946.

3. This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature, and shall remain in force for ------ (duration of investigation). The Agreement may be terminated by either party, at any time before its expiry date, by giving the other party written notice of five days (in the case of contracts for a period of less than two months) or two weeks (in the case of contracts for a period of two months or more).

In witness whereof, the respective representatives of the United Nations and expert have signed this Agreement.

Done in ....., this ..... day of ..... 1996, in two originals in the English language.

For the United Nations:	For forensic expert(s)
Signature	Signature
(Name and title of authorized official)	(Name of authorized official of Member State or NGO)
Date	

Annex III

SPECIAL SERVICE AGREEMENT

[Preambular paragraphs as required by the particular situation]

Obligation of the individual forensic expert

1. The expert agrees to make himself/herself available for the duration and the purpose of the Agreement.

2. The expert agrees to the terms and conditions specified in the "Special Service Agreement" contract herewith attached 1/ and shall comply with the obligations herein stated.

3. The expert shall perform his or her functions under the authority and in full compliance with the instructions of the ------ (special rapporteur/independent expert/working group of the Commission on Human Rights or the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as applicable).

4. The expert shall undertake to respect the impartiality and independence of the ------ (special rapporteur/independent expert/working group/High Commissioner for Human Rights) and shall neither seek nor accept instructions regarding the services performed under this Agreement from any Government, authority or any other entity external to the United Nations.

5. The expert shall refrain from any conduct which would adversely reflect on the ------ (special rapporteur/independent expert/working group/High Commissioner for Human Rights) or which is incompatible with the aims and objectives of the United Nations.

6. The expert shall comply with all rules, regulations, instructions, procedures or directives issued by the United Nations.

7. The expert shall, in no manner whatsoever, use the name, emblem or official seal of the United Nations, or any abbreviation thereof, in connection with his or her business or otherwise. The expert shall not advertise or otherwise make public the fact of his/her contractual relationship with the United Nations.

This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature of the contract herewith attached.

1/ A Special Service Agreement (P.104) form is the standard form utilized by the United Nations to obtain the temporary services of individuals as consultants.